

Jonathan Clark, Barn
Northeast Corner of Cedarburg Road
and Bonniwell Road
Mequon
Ozaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-311-A

HABS
WIS.
45-MEQ,
1-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JONATHAN CLARK, BARN

HABS
WIS,
45-MEQ
1-A-

Location: Northeast Corner of Cedarburg and Bonniwell
Roads, Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

USGS Cedarburg Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates:
Zone 16 Easting 419700 Northing 4790570

Present Owner: Loyal Wells

Present Use: Storage

Significance: The Jonathan Clark House Barn was built and
operated as part of the Jonathan Clark farm. The
barn's architectural significance is linked to
the Clark House, which has been listed on the
National Register of Historic Places. Both barn
and house have coursed fieldstone construction
and Greek Revival styling.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1848. The Jonathan Clark
House itself was built in 1848. The similarities in
construction style, architectural style and building
materials suggests a comparable construction date.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners:

1848 Jonathan Clark

1870 John Doyle¹

1946 Edwin Nieman for Fromm Brothers, Nieman &
Company²

¹Richard Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey in
Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870 (Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public
Museum, 1981), 86, 91.

²Doyle Family to Edwin Nieman for Fromm Brothers, Nieman &
Company, 8 June 1946, v98, p409; 2 July 1946, v96, p254; 31
December 1947, v100, p303; 31 December 1947, v102, p199, Ozaukee

1973 Loyal Wells ³

4. Builders, suppliers:

A. Builders: Jonathan Clark. The Jonathan Clark House was built by Clark in 1848. Clark owned the property until 1870. The fieldstone construction used by Clark for his Greek Revival house was prominent in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880.⁴ Therefore, due to construction similarities between the house and barn, as well as the fact that Clark retained the property 20 of the 30 years the fieldstone style was popular, it is likely that he built the barn.

B. Suppliers: Unknown

5. Original plans and construction: The original plans for the barn have not been found.

6. Alterations and additions: The windows in the west side of the barn have been replaced, as has the door on the south side. The north door has been closed and a much smaller door put in its place.

B. Historical Context:

Although a government road was surveyed through the Town of Mequon shortly after a treaty was signed with the Menomonee Indians in 1831, settlement in the area did not begin until 1833. The first settlers were from New York and England, and later Germany and Ireland. The government road was finally cut between 1836 and 1839, about the same time that settlement in the area started to increase. Settlement became very rapid in the early

County Register of Deeds, Port Washington, Wisconsin.

³Fromm Brothers to Loyal Wells, 12 July 1973, v325, p399, Ozaukee County.

⁴The house's 1848 construction date, as well as the fact that Clark was the builder, is substantiated by the inscription stone over its front door. Perrin, Buildings, 86.

1840s.⁵

The Town of Mequon was originally covered by a hardwood forest. By 1838 the town had its first saw mill. The mill was likely supplied by settlers who were clearing their land for farming, an endeavor implied by the fact that a flour mill and a grist mill were also erected in the town shortly thereafter.⁶

One of the 1840s settlers in the Town of Mequon was Jonathan Clark.⁷ Notwithstanding the fact that the inscription stone on the house associated with the barn indicates that Clark built it in 1848, little is known about his period of ownership. In conjunction, perhaps, with the larger barn that once sat immediately north of the subject stone structure (foundation remains of this larger barn and implement remains therein, were clearly evident in the archaeological survey completed in April, 1986), it is possible to conclude that Clark operated a farm.

The fact that the Town of Mequon was heavily wooded and had a saw mill suggests that many dwellings in the area might have been built of timber. But settlers in the Mequon/Cedarburg (a town immediately north of Mequon) area also built a number of fieldstone and quarried rock houses. Architectural historian Richard Perrin studied many of these buildings in his book Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey in Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870. Perrin identifies the Clark House as "one of the finest examples" of the combination of fieldstone and quarried rock construction in Wisconsin.⁸

While little is know about Clark's tenure on the farm, more is known of the Doyle family's period of ownership. That knowledge, however, is based largely on the various stories of mischief created by the Doyle boys.⁹ There

⁵Walter D. Corrigan, Sr., History of the Town of Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin (Mequon, WI: The Mequon Club, n.d.), 8, 9.

⁶Ibid., 7, 9. Knowledge of the crops grown is vague, but Corrigan did note that one farmer raised wheat in 1838.

⁷Corrigan, Town of Mequon, 12.

⁸Perrin, Buildings, p. 91.

⁹Ibid., 91.

were no references to a farm or the fieldstone barn in those accounts.

The house and the barn remained in the Doyle family until 1946, at which time it, along with the whole SW1/4 SE 1/4 passed to Edwin Nieman and the Fromm Brothers, Nieman & Company.¹⁰ A three acre tract around the house was parceled off in 1949 when the Fromms sold the house to Joseph and Catherine Schneiker.¹¹

The Fromms retained ownership of the barn until 1973, at which time they sold it to Loyal Wells, the current owner.¹² Between operations in Hamburg, Wisconsin, and Mequon, the Fromms operated what was probably the largest fox farm in the state. They likely bought the Doyle land with an eye to expansion since it adjoined their already vast Mequon holdings. (At a minimum, the entire Mee-Kwon Park golf course, as well as 310 more acres were owned by the Fromms.) There is no evidence, however, to suggest this expansion took place.

With Wells' acquisition, the barn has been used only for storage.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Jonathan Clark House Barn was built circa 1848. It reflects a Greek Revival style.
2. Condition of fabric: The historic and architectural integrity of the barn is good, despite the fact that two windows and both doors have been replaced. All interior structural members appear to be original. A problem of some significance is developing, however, as substantial cracks are starting to appear in the

¹⁰Doyle Family to Edwin Nieman for Fromm Brothers, Nieman & Company, 8 June 1946, v98, p409; 2 July 1946, v96, p254; 31 December 1947, v100, p303; 31 December 1947, v102, p199, Ozaukee County.

¹¹Fromms to Joseph and Catherine Schneiker, 25 October 1949, v108, p610, Ozaukee County.

¹²Fromms to Loyal Wells, 12 July 1973, v325, p399, Ozaukee County.

walls.

- B. The Jonathan Clark House Barn is a random coursed fieldstone Greek Revival building. The raking cornice and pediment returns nicely set off board and batten gables. Simple one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows are set in both the fieldstone and gable portions of the west side. Lintels and sills are wooden. Large hinged, board and batten doors on the structure's north and south sides permit access. Each doorway has a large timber lintel. The north doorway was subsequently closed off and a much smaller door put in its place.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: None
2. Secondary and published sources:

Corrigan, Walter D., Sr. History of the Town of Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Mequon, WI: The Mequon Club, n.d.

Deeds and Records of Ozaukee County. Register of Deeds. Port Washington, WI.

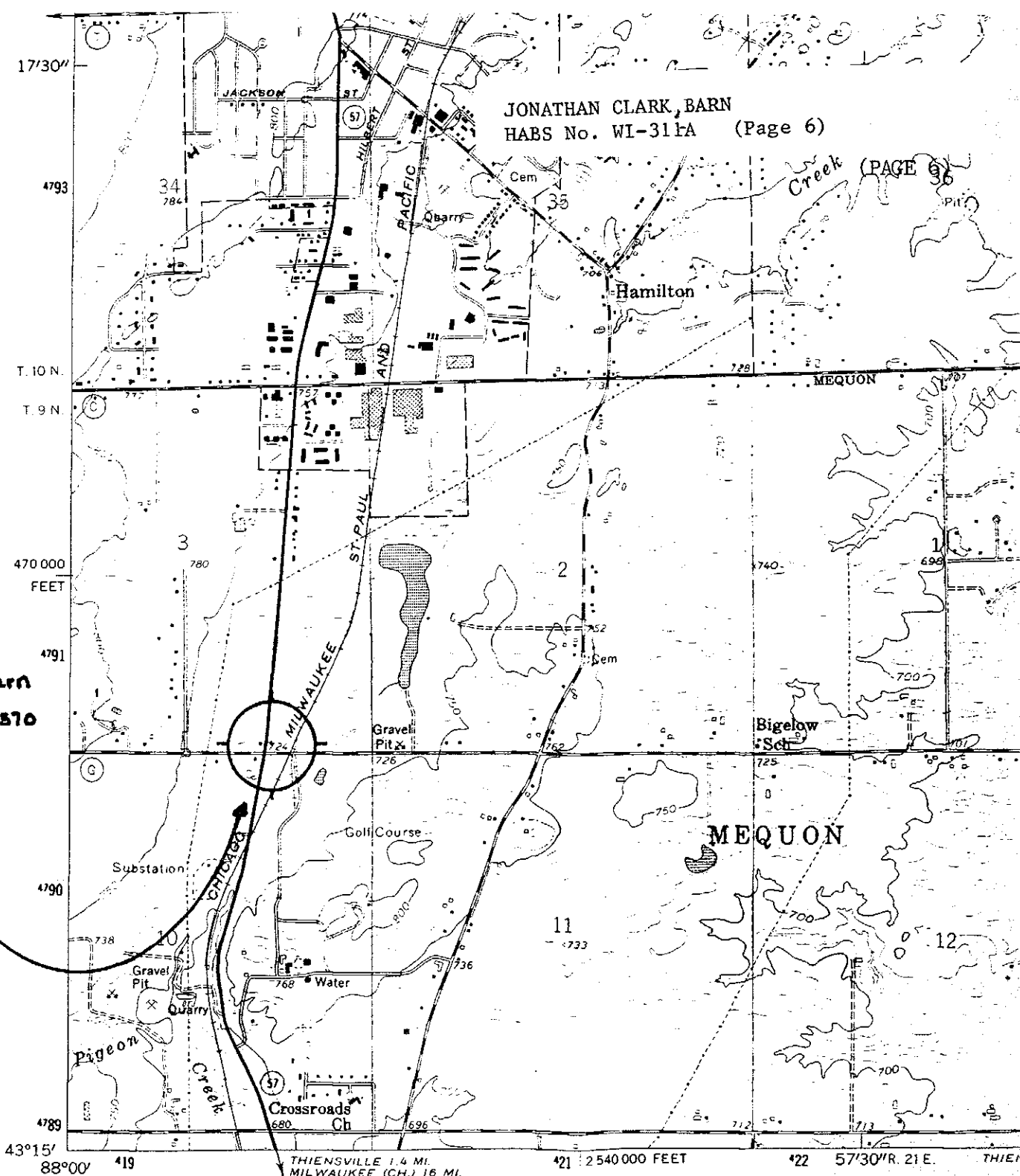
Perrin, Richard. Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey in Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1981.

Prepared by:

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February 25, 1989

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project has been sponsored by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation. Jahnke & Jahnke Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Waukesha, Wisconsin, acted as the contracting agency. The project was formally undertaken by John N. Vogel, a consulting historian, who provided the photographic work, the historical data, as well as the architectural (technical) data.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods

Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1959

Hydrography compiled from U. S. Lake Survey chart 74 (1957)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

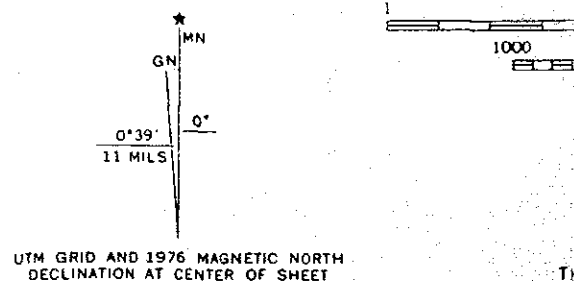
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971 and 1976. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



AND WISCONSIN
A FOLDER